

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3-12 and 14-24 are in the application. No claim is allowed

In the Advisory Action dated February 26, 2009, the examiner points out that Massey randomly matches players, thus allowing average players the chance to play other players of various skill levels. The examiner states that by winning against that (lesser skilled) player would put the average player higher on the ranking list. While this is possible, it still does not make that average player a “winning player of the tournament.” He/she must still win five consecutive times to win a tournament and the chances still favor that the higher skilled players will win most of the tournaments. Hence, as Applicants have pointed out in prior arguments, a disadvantage of the prior art tournaments is that the skilled players are typically the tournament winners.

Similarly, In Kelly, the best players will still be the ultimate outcome-determined tournament winners. Winning a random prize along the way is not the same as being a “winning player of the tournament.”

For these reasons and for the reasons set forth in the Response dated January 27, 2009, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance.

Should the examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application the undersigned may be reached at the telephone number set out below. Applicants hereby petition for any additional extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee for such extension or any fee required in connection with the filing of this amendment is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 504480 (Order No. IGT1P279).

Respectfully submitted,

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